

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A design data processing method of processing hierarchically configured design data, comprising:
obtaining first design data of a predetermined lower rank of hierarchy;
obtaining second design data of a rank of hierarchy higher than the predetermined lower rank of hierarchy, after the obtaining the first design data; and
combining the second design data to the first design data.
- 2-4. (CANCELED)
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable recording medium storing a software program for processing hierarchically configured design data, which when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform operations comprising:
obtaining first design data of a predetermined lower rank of hierarchy;
obtaining second design data of a rank of hierarchy higher than the predetermined lower rank of hierarchy, after the obtaining the first design data; and
combining the second design data to the first design data.
- 6-8. (CANCELED)
9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of designing a hierarchical layout of a circuit, comprising:
receiving a designation of a specified lower rank from a user;
retrieving design data of the specified lower rank from a storage unit;
retrieving wiring data of an upper rank from the storage unit, after the retrieving the design data;
setting the wiring data in the design data; and
displaying the design data in which the wiring data has been set on a display unit.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY